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II. UNFPA: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

D. Global Initiative on contraceptive requirements

1. The Deputy Executive Director (Technical Services) introduced the status report on the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s (document DP/1995/24/Part II). He noted that the Global Initiative had completed the work assigned to it in 1991, including the conduct of in-depth studies in 12 countries; publication of reports on the in-depth studies and other technical reports; the development of a contraceptive commodity database; and the development of a follow-up process. He said that a recent consultative group meeting on the Global Initiative had reached general consensus on four points: (a) the work of the Global Initiative should continue and its secretariat institutionalized and made an integral part of UNFPA; (b) the secretariat should conduct a systematic follow-up of activities and assist in organizing and promoting training in logistics management, an area where there was a particular need; (c) the contraceptive commodity database should be further developed to provide a more complete picture of country-level demand and supply, and include information on locally produced and/or commercially available contraceptive commodities; and (d) a global contraceptive commodity facility should be established and managed by UNFPA in order to eliminate discontinuities in the supply of contraceptives and to achieve economies of scale in the procurement of contraceptives.

2. Numerous delegations welcomed the status report and commended the accomplishments of the Global Initiative. Many expressed their strong support for continuing the Global Initiative beyond 1995 and recommended exploring ways to institutionalize the secretariat of the initiative. In this regard, several delegations recommended integrating the Global Initiative into the overall programme of UNFPA, and eventually making its secretariat a permanent part of UNFPA. One delegation suggested that such action should be reflected in the Fund's budget proposals for the 1996-1997 biennium. A number of delegations commended the work of the UNFPA Procurement Unit and emphasized the need to strengthen the Fund's procurement capability and technical capacity further in this area. Several delegations proposed that UNFPA reappraise its role in helping to safeguard and ensure the supply of contraceptives, and in meeting unmet needs, both for contraceptives and logistics management, including through collaboration with other key players in this field.

3. Several delegations underscored the importance of focusing attention on issues of quality of care and quality assurance, as well as on meeting the contraceptive needs of adolescents, youth and unmarried individuals. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of local production of contraceptive commodities and the need to stimulate local distribution and strengthen local capacity to take over and manage programmes. One delegation emphasized the need to take cultural differences fully into account in the efforts to meet contraceptive requirements of individual countries, and expressed his country's reservations regarding the availability of contraceptives to adolescents, youth and unmarried individuals.

4. In response to suggestions regarding the continuation of the work of the Global Initiative, UNFPA agreed to submit to the Executive Board at its third regular session 1995 proposals on the continuation of the Global Initiative beyond 1995, in the context of UNFPA's intercountry programme for 1996-1999, as well as on certain options on modalities for a global contraceptive commodity facility. UNFPA also agreed to reappraise its role in the area of contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs and to analyse how best to meet unmet needs in these key areas, including the need for quality assurance. This analysis would be presented in the form of a report to the Executive Board at its first regular session of 1996.